undp

update

Published by the Division of Public Affairs
United Nations Development Programme
One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

Vol. 7, no. 2, 31 January 1994

Public and private partnerships to address urgent environmental needs

UNDP and the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD) are forming partnerships between the public and private sectors to tackle some of the most urgent environmental problems affecting urban centres all over the world. Funds will be raised among contributor countries.

By the year 2000, more than half of the developing countries' poor will live in urban areas, representing some 2.2 billion people.

Under the Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Action, the private sector will contribute its managerial efficiency and funding, while the public sector will safeguard social priorities. Initially, these partnerships will address water and sanitation, waste management and energy.

In the early stages, the BCSD will help identify projects and facilitate contacts with financial institutions. The BCSD is an independent group of business leaders from around the world who promote and encourage businesses to develop goals and actions for sustainable development. BCSD will help determine whether the various partnership projects can be duplicated in other cities.

Preliminary studies have been conducted in three sites: Manizales, Colombia; Madras, India, and Wuhan, China. The first pilot effort, in the Caldas State of Colombia, will address pollution created by the coffee industry. The water used to transport and ferment coffee fruit turns into a thick black liquid which discharges into streams and rivers. The Municipality of Manizales and the Government of the State of Caldas are concerned about the water pollution in downstream communities. Preventive and remedial solutions for cleaning up the water will be undertaken through joint efforts of local NGOs, the state environmental agency, and a private sector cooperative of coffee producers. Funding will be through a local bank.

A local coffee producer in the Caldas State in Colombia where a pilot project will help eliminate pollution caused by the area's coffee industry.

In Madras, India, a mixed capital company will be formed to improve industrial waste management in the Manali Industrial Estate. Private and public partners have been selected to implement a system of industria water recycling and effluent treatment, and to introduce public sewage technologies. A joint private and public sector venture in Wuhan, China, will address liquid effluent pollution caused by coal generated power.

The proposal for Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Action includes a target of $6 million which must be raised to form a trust fund for technical assistance, feasibility studies and capacity-building programmes.

In this issue:

Assistance for refugees in Sierra Leone — Panel debates UNDP's future — Cleaning up the urban environment — UNDP officials step up to new roles

Sweden plans to increase contribution to UNDP

The Government of Sweden has proposed to increase its contribution to UNDP for this year by 10 million Swedish Kronor, bringing the total to 570 million Swedish Kronor, or the equivalent of US$68.7 million. The Minister for International Development Cooperation and Human Rights Issues, Alf Svensson, said that this increase was justified by the reform in governance and the new direction UNDP was taking.

update

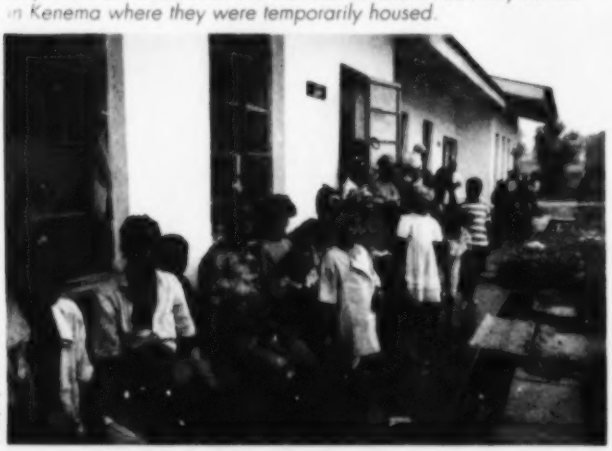
Advising Sierra Leone during transition from relief to development

UNDP is providing assistance to the Sierra Leone Government in its efforts to resettle war-displaced populations, and strengthen the capacity of the National Rehabilitation Committee (NARECOM), which coordinates relief and rehabilitation activities. The objective is to help the country in its transition from relief operations to rehabilitation and development of war-torn areas.

The conflict in Liberia, which began in 1991, spread into Sierra Leone. Tens of thousands of people fled, abandoning much of Sierra Leone's most productive farmland. These refugees and displaced populations are now returning to their homes to salvage what they can from their land.

The combined impact of a structural adjustment programme and the war have created a harsh socio-economic environment for these people who are returning to the newly liberated areas of Sierra Leone. After a UNDP-led team visited the country late last year, donors and NGOs asked the United Nations to strengthen the coordination capabilities of NARECOM to ensure that emergency needs are covered. UNDP has given $100,000 to prepare a national relief and rehabilitation plan for presentation to donors in March. UNDP will also help train NARECOM and other relevant government staff to better coordinate and manage relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Displaced Sierra Leoneans at the Government Secondary School in Kenema where they were temporarily housed.



Mary Speck/UNDP

External advisory panel debates UNDP's future course

An international group of high-level leaders and thinkers met on 19-20 January in New York to advise James Gustave Speth, the Administrator of UNDP, on its future course.

The external advisory panel offered ideas and suggestions on four broad questions: What should be the future role of the United Nations in international cooperation for development? What should UNDP do to help achieve the UN's full potential in fostering peace and human betterment? How can UNDP be an effective force for helping developing countries achieve priority development objectives; to this end, does UNDP need to define a clearer, more focused role and mission? How can UNDP secure a larger and more secure funding base and build stronger constituencies for its work?

In their debate, panel members said UNDP has great potential for intellectual and policy leadership, beyond its central UN system role in programming, financing and coordination. UNDP's wider potential is evidenced by its *Human Development Reports*, its key role in realizing Agenda 21 objectives set by the Earth Summit, and its contribution to the concept of sustainable human development. This concept has an important place in the needed international debate on development and in building new North-South partnerships. It should also be the main focus of UNDP's own collaboration with developing countries — in policy dialogue, in programme design and implementation, and in building national capacities for policy and programme formulation. However, for this focus to succeed and have grassroots impact, panel members called for working much more with non-governmental organizations, women's groups and other elements in civil society. It would also mean relying more extensively on local expertise and talent, and promoting wider participation and communication in the development process.

The 17-member panel combined experience from many fields in both developing and developed countries. Their current or previous functions are in research and consulting centres, funding bodies, non-governmental organizations, social action groups, government ministries, parliaments, media, the corporate world and the UN system. Members served in their individual capacities.

The Administrator is also consulting extensively with UNDP staff and with governments in an effort to identify how UNDP could be reshaped in the light of new development challenges and conditions. An internal transition team of UNDP staff completed work in November and issued its recommendations in a report titled "Charter for Change". Government views are being expressed in ongoing exchanges with the Administrator. His resulting proposals will then be submitted for consideration and appropriate decision by UNDP's Executive Board, the new 36-member intergovernmental body established by the UN General Assembly.

Small projects make big gains towards improving the urban environment

After one year in operation, an innovative urban programme is proving that

small-scale environmental projects, carried out locally, can make a difference in improving the urban environment. LIFE — the Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment — works with NGOs, community groups and municipal authorities in tackling critical urban environmental problems in low-income areas. Among its first-year achievements, LIFE provided support in Pakistan to improve sanitation conditions in Abbottabad and gave environmental education courses to women in Quetta.

Launched by UNDP at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, LIFE supports local, community-based initiatives that deal with urban environmental problems including the inadequate management of urban waste, the poor quality and supply of water, air pollution, the absence of environmental education, occupation of hazard-prone areas and poor environmental health.

These and other issues related to the future of LIFE were discussed at a meeting in Stockholm, Sweden on 11-12 January. Hosted by the Swedish International Development Agency, the gathering brought together mayors and NGO representatives from 11 developing countries, and representatives from city associations, bilateral and multilateral agencies.

LIFE facilitates regional and interregional exchanges of experience. The aim is to promote "local-local" dialogue to help find solutions to pressing urban environmental problems. A national selection committee supported by a national coordinator then awards grants to community-based organizations and NGOs working in collaboration with local authorities to improve the urban environment.

During its first year, LIFE set in motion a process of dialogue and collaboration toward improving the urban environment in eight pilot countries — Brazil, Egypt, Jamaica, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Tanzania and Thailand. In Thailand, an environmental management project and a community garbage collection project in Khon Kaen City, will soon be launched, along with a community canal improvement project and a sanitation system improvement project in Songkhla City. LIFE also provided support to several regional projects.

During 1994, LIFE will refine and implement its programme in the first eight pilot countries, and select the next eight countries. Its projected budgetary requirement for the next two years is approximately $8.5 million.

UNDP officials step up to new roles

Several high-level personnel changes were announced earlier this month at UNDP. The UN Secretary-General appointed Mr. Wally N'Dow a national of the Gambia, who is currently serving as Resident Coordinator in Tanzania, as Assistant Secretary-General, effective 15 February. Mr. N'Dow will act as Officer-in-Charge of Habitat, the UN Centre for Human Settlements. Mr. Reinhart Helmke, of the Federal Republic of Germany, was named UNDP Assistant Administrator and Executive Director of the Office for Project Services, which is the project-implementing arm of UNDP. Mr. Robin Kinloch, from the United Kingdom, was appointed the new Director of UNDP's Division of Personnel. He will replace Mr. Denis Halliday of the Republic of Ireland, who becomes Regional Representative and Resident Coordinator in Thailand.

Mr. N'Dow's first UNDP assignment was in 1981 as Chief of the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office in Burkina Faso. He was reassigned to New York in 1985 to work in the Office of Emergency Operations for the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, and the following year was appointed Chief of the East Africa Division of UNSO in New York. Before going to Dar-es-Salaam in 1992, he was Resident Coordinator in Central African Republic.

Mr. Helmke joined UNDP on transfer from the International Labour Organisation in 1974. He has carried out a wide range of assignments in the field and at headquarters: in Brazil as Assistant and later Deputy Resident Representative; in New York as Area Officer and Senior Planning and Coordination Officer; in Geneva as Deputy Director of the European Office; in Haiti, where he was Resident Coordinator; in New York, as the Executive Secretary of the UN Capital Development Fund; and most recently, as the Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mr. Kinloch joined UNDP in 1972. Prior to this, he was with the UN in Thailand as an Economic Development Officer and Economic Geographer for the Mekong. Subsequently, he worked as Project Officer and then Senior Project Officer for the UNDP Division for Global and Interregional Programme. He then served as Deputy Resident Representative in Kenya, as Coordinator for the Division for Global and Interregional Programme, as Resident Representative in Cape Verde, as Resident Representative in Zaire, as Chief of the Division for West Africa, and then Deputy Regional Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa. He is currently on a special two-month assignment as Acting Coordinator for Relief and Rehabilitation for the UN Operations in Somalia.

Mr. Halliday joined UNDP in 1964 as a Junior Professional Officer and Assistant to the Resident Representative in Iran. He then served in headquarters as Assistant Research Officer and subsequently Assistant to the Director of the Bureau of Administrative Management and Budget. He was then reassigned to the field serving in Malaysia as Assistant and later Deputy Regional Representative; in Indonesia as Deputy Resident Representative; and in Samoa as Resident Representative. After that, he served at headquarters in the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific as

READEX
FICHE

Chief of the Programme Support Division; as Deputy Director of the Division of Personnel; as Director of the Office of the Administrator, and since 1988, as Director of the Division of Personnel.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Bhutan — Primary Schools and Basic Health Units in Eastern Bhutan — This project will expand basic health services and primary schools in Eastern Bhutan. Fourteen primary schools and 15 basic health units will be constructed in the districts of Lhuntshi, Mongar, Tashigang, Tashi Yangtse, Pemagastel and Samdrup Jonkhar. The districts' capabilities for constructing, contracting, supervising and designing new facilities will be reinforced.

UNDP contribution: $155,000. UNCDF contribution: $1,919,441. UNICEF contribution: $54,000. Government cost-sharing: $502,000. UNDP will fund a project manager, an account officer, and other staff. UNCDF will cover construction costs. UNICEF will finance the drinking water scheme. The government will fund personnel and office space. Executed by the Ministry of Social Services. (BHU/92/C01)

India — Small Hydro Power Development in Hilly Region — Deforestation is steadily increasing in the Himalayan region due to small villages' dependency on forest resources for heating and cooking. This project will assist the government in drawing up a master plan to utilize small hydro-electric resources in the region. Twenty commercially-viable small hydel demonstration projects will be set up.

Global Environment Facility contribution: $7.5 million. Funds will finance training, equipment, and consultants in micro-hydel engineering, equipment design, multi-media campaigns and rural development. Nationally executed and implemented by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. (IND/91/G31)

India — Development of High Rate Biomethanation Processes — UNDP will provide technical assistance in devising a national strategy for biogas generation and use. Cost-effective technologies will be introduced and demonstrated to create awareness of the environmental and economic significance of methane recovery as an energy resource.

UNDP contribution: $5.5 million. Funds will finance training, equipment, and international and national consultants in biotechnology and engineering, environmental protection, environmental economics and policy planning. Nationally executed and implemented by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. (IND/92/G32)

Regional Project:
Conservation of Biodiversity through Effective Management of Wildlife Trade — Much of the trade in wildlife species in central Africa is unregulated, and almost nothing is known about its impact on biodiversity. This Global Environment Facility project will assist in developing and implementing sustainable trade and management strategies to ensure the survival of wildlife species in the region.

Global Environment Facility contribution: $1 million. Funds will finance training, equipment, and sub-contracts to local NGOs and wildlife management agencies. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services and implemented by the World Wide Fund for Nature, and NGOs. (RAF/92/G33)

Editor: Cherie Hart
Tel: (212) 906 5304
Fax: (212) 906 5364

Boundaries and names shown on maps do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations.

Printed on recycled paper.

United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017